



JUNE 12-28



CLUBNEWS

Arctic Highway Challenge

The latest news from John Chesworth

THIS EVENT MAY not appeal to everyone, but for those of you that enjoy a challenge, particularly one which involves driving your Porsche and travelling through stunning scenery in the company of like-minded enthusiasts, now is the time to start planning. With mid-summer's day at the mid-point this will be a 'daylight' tour, despite local regulations calling for headlights at all times. For at least a week of the tour the sun will never set! The Arctic High, like the Azores High, is more reliable than the notorious British summer low-pressure weather systems, and we can reasonably expect some sunshine but little rain. (Oh, famous last words?)

There are places for just 15 cars, but they must be Porsches of one type or another. Any age, all are welcome, whether 356 or Panamera. The 911s in the group will be celebrating their 50th anniversary, so expect some additional fun with them. And if, like me, you have a personal reason for celebrating anything, do please let me know... we'll be only too pleased to assist! The hotels on route are all three- or four-star (no tents or hostels), and all evening meals, breakfasts and ferry crossings are included in the cost.

We'll leave Harwich on the afternoon of June 12 2013 and sail by overnight ferry to Esbjerg in Denmark, then drive across Denmark to Fredrikshavn for the night, before taking the daytime ferry to Oslo, where the fun will really begin. For the next 10 days the direction is north, and east, through Trondheim, and on to Mo i Rana. However, before reaching the Arctic Circle we've an interesting diversion planned. Just 30km south of the Arctic Circle is the most northerly race circuit in Europe – the 3.7km-long Arctic Circle Raceway. We'll be 'driving it', and it'll be a great chance to blow away any cobwebs from the exhaust system! Google it, and watch the locals!

Later that morning, there will be an enforced stop as we reach and cross the Arctic Circle. No setting sun for a week, but we'll be stopping in Narvik for two nights before pushing on. No need to go near the car for this day off, as Narvik is best explored by foot. The ladies might enjoy some retail therapy, and there is the option to take a cruise out to Andenes and seek the whales that populate these waters.

It's still the better part of 500 miles (and the odd ferry crossing or two) to the North Cape, but we'll break the journey in Alta, arriving at the North Cape on the day before mid-summer.

For the next two days the heading will be easterly through the Sami lands, and 'mobile chicanes', before reaching Kirkenes on the Russian border and our turnaround point. We won't be back-tracking the roads we came, but travelling south through Finland and Sweden – different scenery, different people, different everything, but more on that next time.

The overall distance from Harwich to Harwich is roughly 3,300 miles and the maximum in one day is 340 miles, with most being around 250 miles, so this is truly a driving event, nay adventure. We plan to be back in Harwich on June 28, but it is not impossible that this might be delayed by two days to allow for a special party in Oslo, but more on that next time as well. There will be all the usual memorabilia plus a few specials, not to mention the bragging rights, the unforgettable memories and experiences that can only be gained on a trip such as The PCGB 2013 Arctic Highway Challenge.

By the time you read this, the event will have been opened up to some of the northern European Porsche Clubs, so please don't delay. Call me on 01339 755262 or email me at jbcdirector@porscheclubgb.com for more information and an entry form.

- 1 The spectacular scenery will live long in the memory
- 2 The North Cape
- 3 The Arctic Highway – sometimes with a mobile chicane
- 4 The Arctic Circle Raceway

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